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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Picture Story No. 69

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THE BORDER PATROL ON THE ALERT FOR
CARRIERS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

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Traveling by horseback, jeep, and airplane, the border patrol of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, keeps close watch over the border between the United States and Mexico to prevent the entry into this country of any animal or animal product that might carry with it the highly infectious virus that causes foot-and-mouth disease. Ever since this dread livestock ailment was discovered in Mexico - in December, 1946 - quarantine measures against it have been required by law.

By land and by air the 600 men of the border patrol cover the 2,000 miles from San Diego, California, to Brownsville, Texas, which includes some of the roughest and most remote country in North America. Cooperating closely with them are members of other border agencies, particularly the Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Customs, U.S. Department of the Treasury. These officials act for the Bureau of Animal Industry at ports of entry where they are stationed. In return, the men of the new border patrol serve as Customs agents and Plant Quarantine inspectors in areas apart from the central ports. This three-way cooperation cuts costs and promotes the effectiveness of each group.

Bright orange signs imprinted in black are posted along the border to tell all those who can read about the border patrol and its mission. The signs proclaim, in Spanish and English, "WARNING: Cattle, sheep, goats, and swine are by law prohibited entry into the United States from Mexico. Such animals found to be illegally in the United States will be destroyed."

The accompanying pictures show some of the day-to-day activities of the men who guard our borders against carriers of foot-and-mouth disease.

(8 by 10 glossy prints of any of the pictures here shown in miniature are free to writers and editors on request to Press Service, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

MEN WHO GUARD THE BORDER

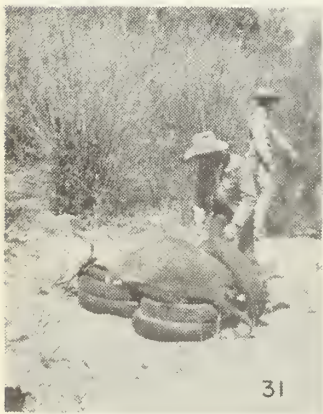
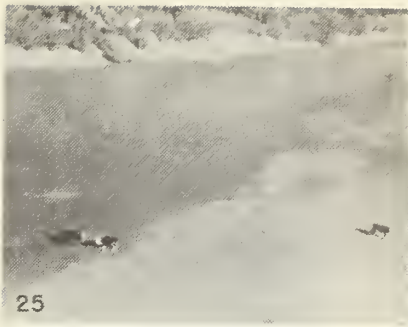
1. District foremen post warnings
2. Jeep drivers patrol about 40 miles each way
3. Pilots fly trained observers up and down the border
4. Horsemen ride the border in remote areas
5. Tom's Well is home to patrolmen in the New Mexico desert
6. Here a patrolman's only companions may be his horse and his dog
7. Men on patrol stop in for a cup of coffee
8. Mail and messages are dropped by air
9. At busy ports of entry, like El Paso, Texas
10. Plant Quarantine and Customs inspectors cooperate
11. Plant Quarantine and Bureau of Animal Industry inspectors watch for meat
12. Any that is found goes into the incinerator

TERRAIN COVERED

13. Below El Paso the Rio Grande meanders through an accessible valley
14. But as it leaves the plains of El Paso its banks become high bluffs
15. Farther into the mountains it has eroded deep gorges
16. It flows out of the mountains onto broad plains
17. The going along the International Highway is easy
18. Away from the highway it gets rougher
19. Until jeep trails are the only roads
20. And even they give out eventually
21. When the jeep can no longer get through the patrolman unloads his horse
22. And continues his rounds on horseback
23. Through dusty desert
24. And rocky arroyo

NO TRESPASSING

25. The air patrol spots a herd that seems to have crossed the river
26. Alerts a ground crew, which locates the spot
27. And starts off for it
28. Rounds up the suspected herd
29. Looks for brands
30. And, finding none, shoots each "drifter" from across the border
31. Places it on a pyre of old rubber tires
32. Sets fire to it
33. And reduces to ashes a possible carrier of foot and mouth disease



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